

# First Mondays

Monthly Notes for Virginia's Adult Education Providers



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
DIVISION OF  
**TECHNOLOGY, CAREER &  
ADULT EDUCATION**  
OFFICE OF ADULT EDUCATION & LITERACY SERVICES

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## Calendar



**July 28-30  
VAILL 2010**

**September 10  
GED® Examiners' Meeting**

**September 30-October 1  
Program Managers'  
Meeting**

**October 11-13  
VAACE Conference**

**October 18-22  
GED & Lifelong Learning  
Awareness Week**

## Money Matters



- **Be on the lookout for grant awards to be distributed sometime in July.**
- **Read the attached award memo thoroughly, as it contains important instructions and information.**
- **Be sure that your finance person is given a copy of the award and the award memo.**

## NRS data: Diving deeper

Tom Suh and Jim André, both specialists at OAEL, and Wanda Botts, coordinator with Richmond City adult education, attended the annual NRS workshop in June. With the theme of "Diving Deep into the NRS Local Pool," the workshop focused on a systematic way of analyzing local program data beyond what the tables and reports convey. Participants chose a topic of program performance—attendance, gains, or follow-up goals—to address. After following a process of inquiry, they devised and carried out an analysis plan for collecting, disaggregating, and comparing their data. After examining the results, they mapped out a plan of program improvement and shared their discoveries with other state and local program participants from all over the country.

The systematic process is insightful and replicable with any local program. The NRS sponsors provided many useful tools for collecting and analyzing local program data that will be shared with Virginia programs in the upcoming year.

## New NRS reporting standards

Beginning July 1, race and ethnicity will be reported differently in the NRS data system. On the USPD, students will now be asked two questions: "Are you Hispanic/Latino?" and "What is your race? (choose one or more)"

The new requirements create a clear separation between race and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. Students must first self-identify as Hispanic/Latino or not Hispanic/Latino, regardless of their racial background. Students selecting Hispanic/Latino will be reported to USED as only "Hispanic/Latino of any race." Students who do *not* self-identify as Hispanic/Latino ethnicity will be reported under a single race or "two or more races" if they choose multiple races.

Students who self-identify as Hispanic/Latino may also choose one or more races, but the USED will not collect race information separately.

For more information on the requirements of reporting race and ethnicity, visit: <http://nrsweb.org/docs/tips/RaceandEthnicity.pdf>, and look for a revised USPD in the weeks to come!

## GED Spot



Instead of sending the GED candidate who just needs a few more points to pass back to a regular class, consider math and writing workshops or seminars. They provide focused additional instruction.

**JUNE NUMBERS**  
**Tested 3456**  
**Passed 1480**

**FY 09-10**  
**Tested 23,945**  
**Passed 14,705**

## Announcement



OAEL is pleased to announce a new name and logo for our office's division. Effective June 1, OAEL's division is now known as the "Division of Technology, Career & Adult Education" reflecting the division's acknowledgement of the important work that you all do everyday.

**OAEL**  
**804-225-2053**

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/adulted/index.shtml>

## Local Spotlight: Winchester woman overcomes the odds

Nancy Arquilla, a native of El Salvador, had mastered Spanish Braille when she arrived in Winchester, Virginia, in 2006 at the age of 17. Born without sight, Urquilla had urged her parents to send her to school for the blind when she was six. In



Winchester, she began working towards her GED certificate. But first Urquilla had to learn English and English Braille. Through her hard work and determination, and the support and dedication of adult education and ESL staff, Urquilla not only earned the certificate, she was asked to speak at her recognition ceremony. She would

like to become an interpreter. Susan Utt, program manager of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Adult Education program, says Nancy is "simply exceptional." Debbie Bergtholdt, the state GED administrator, commented, "I am astounded at the number of obstacles she had to overcome to come this far. She is inspiring."

Credit goes to the *Winchester Star* for information from an article entitled, "I Worked Hard for This," which appeared in the Friday, June 18, 2010 edition.

## Virginia chosen for OVAE's TEAL initiative

Virginia has been selected as one of twelve states to participate in the TEAL (Teaching Excellence in Adult Literacy) Center Initiative. The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) has established the TEAL Center to support quality instruction in adult education across content areas. A primary focus of the TEAL Center is to bridge research to practice and help adult educators value and use research to improve practice, with the aim of enhancing student learning. Beginning with the content area of writing for adult basic education (ABE) students, TEAL will offer an intensive program of professional development and individualized technical assistance to participating staff that will aid states in meeting their unique challenges and opportunities. The VALRC's Hillary Major and OAEL's Jim André, along with a team of four teachers from local programs around the state, will be involved in the project beginning this summer.



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